



Creating a Government

From the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution

(Pages 198-267)



Name: _____ Section: _____ Date: _____



Vocabulary

1. Articles of Confederation
2. Constitution
3. bill of rights (Lower Case)
4. Shays' Rebellion
5. Virginia Plan
6. New Jersey Plan
7. Executive Branch
8. Legislative Branch
9. Judicial Branch
10. Senate
11. House of Representatives
12. Separation of Powers
13. Ratify
14. Bill of Rights (Upper Case)

Notes

I. The Articles of Confederation

- a. The 2nd Continental Congress officially declared that the 13 states were independent from England on _____.
- b. Because independence was declared in the middle of the _____, each state had to quickly organize a _____ to provide order and stability.
 - i. Most states wrote _____ that outlined the powers of their state's government and the _____ of their state's citizens.
 1. Some states constitutions even included a _____ to guarantee certain rights to the citizens of the state.
- c. In addition to declaring independence and managing a war, during the 2nd Continental Congress (1777) delegates from each state also had to work together to create a _____.
 - i. The national government they created is called the _____.
 1. The Articles of Confederation created a _____ of 13 individual states.
 - a. The states acted more like _____ rather than one united country.

ii. How the Articles worked

1. Under the Articles the national or federal government only had _____. That one branch was a legislative branch called Congress.
 - a. Each state elected representatives, called _____, to represent them in Congress.
 - b. In congress each state had _____ vote regardless of _____.
 - c. _____ of 13 states were needed to pass a law.
2. Under the Articles there was no _____ or _____.

iii. Problems with the Articles of Confederation

1. Under the Articles the national government was very _____.
 - a. Weaknesses of the Articles:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - _____
 - iii. _____
 - iv. _____
 - v. _____
 - b. The national government was purposely made weak because many colonists _____
_____.

iv. Shays' Rebellion and the downfall of the Article of Confederation

1. After the Revolution the United States faced an _____
2. _____ were hit the hardest
 - a. Could not pay back _____ or pay _____
3. In Massachusetts farms were being _____ by courts.
4. In 1786, farmer and Revolutionary War veteran _____ organized a rebellion.
 - a. During Shays' Rebellion over _____ farmers marched on court houses to prevent the courts from _____ any more farms.
 - b. The national government was powerless to act. The Massachusetts state government needed to send the state _____ to put down the rebellion.
5. Shays' Rebellion convinced many people around the country that the Articles of Confederation were to _____ and did not work.
 - a. In May of 1787 a convention was called in _____ to _____ the Articles of Confederation

II. The Constitutional Convention

- a. The Constitutional Convention opened in Philadelphia on _____.
_____.
- b. The purpose of this convention was to _____ the Articles of Confederation
- c. The convention was held in the _____ now called _____.
- d. An amazing assembly
 - i. Every state except _____ sent delegates
 - ii. _____ delegates total
 1. Notable attendees
 - a. _____ (Elected conventions President)
 - b. _____ (Oldest at _____)
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 2. Notable Absentees
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____ (Smelled a _____)
 3. _____ were signers of the Declaration of Independence
 4. _____ had served in the Continental Congress
 5. _____ took part in the Revolution
 6. _____ served in the Continental Army
 7. _____ were lawyers

8. _____ owned slaves
9. _____ were well educated
10. _____ was an ordained minister
11. _____ were not born in the United States/colonies

e. Atmosphere of the Convention

- i. The convention was held in a time of _____ throughout the country
- ii. Philadelphia was buzzing with _____ and _____ about what the convention was up to.
- iii. For security purposes _____ were stationed at the doors and even though it was a hot and humid summer the windows were kept _____ to keep outsiders from hearing what was going on.
- iv. All conversations were kept _____ so each delegate could talk freely without pressure from outside sources.

f. Two Rival Plans

- i. Early in the Convention the delegates realized they would need to do away with the Articles of Confederation and start with a _____.
- ii. Two opposing plans for the setup of the new government emerged.
 1. Each plan was based on the idea of _____.
 - a. The idea of separation of powers was designed to keep any one person or group from becoming _____ by _____ the powers of the government into several parts.

2. Plan

- a. Proposed by _____ and _____ of _____
- b. Called for a _____ national government with _____ branches.

i. _____

1. Job was to _____

2. Called _____

3. Made up of 2 “_____”

a. _____

b. _____

i. Both houses would need to _____ to pass a law.

ii. A states representation in both houses was based on its _____.

iii. States with larger populations (Va, Pa, Ny) would have _____ than states with small populations.

ii. _____

1. Job was to _____

2. Headed by a _____

iii. _____

1. Job was to decide if laws were _____

2. Consisted of a _____

3. _____ Plan

- a. _____ opposed the Virginia Plan. They feared it would give large states too much power in Congress. They came up with their own plan called the New Jersey Plan.
- b. The New Jersey Plan called for 3 branches of government just like the Virginia Plan.
- c. The only difference was in the _____.
- d. Under the New Jersey Plan, the legislative branch would have _____ house and each state, regardless of population, would be equal with _____ vote.

4. The Great Compromise

- a. No agreement between the two plans could be reached. Delegates threatened to leave the Convention.
- b. Finally, _____ of _____ proposed a solution.
- c. Sherman called for a government with three branches.
- d. The Executive and Judicial Branches would remain the same, the only branch that would be effected would be the Legislative Branch.
- e. Sherman called for a Legislative Branch with two houses, a _____ and a _____.

i. In the Senate each state would be _____.

1. Each state would get _____ votes regardless of population.

2. This pleased _____ states

ii. In the House of Representatives, representation would be based on _____.

1. The more _____ a state has the more _____ it would get.

2. This pleased _____ states.

f. On _____ the Convention narrowly approved Sherman's compromise and the Convention could continue.

g. Compromising on the Issue of _____

i. Just as large and small states disagreed, _____ and _____ states disagreed over the issue of slavery.

ii. Southern states wanted to count slaves as part of their _____.

1. This would give southern states higher _____ and more power in the _____.

- iii. Northern states did not think Southern states should be able to count slaves.
 - 1. Northern states argued that since southern states did not grant slaves _____ or allow them to _____ they should not be counted toward their population.
- iv. Once again, the delegates _____
 - 1. Southern states could count _____ of their slaves towards their population for the purposes of representation.
 - a. EX: If a state had _____ slaves, _____ of those slaves could be counted toward the state's population.
- v. This compromise became known as the _____.
- h. Signing and Ratifying the Constitution
 - i. The Constitution was finally signed on _____.
 - ii. Before the Constitution could go into effect and replace the Articles of Confederation, _____ of the _____ states needed to approve it.
 - iii. Each state would vote whether or not to adopt it.
 - 1. Those in favor of the new Constitution were called _____
 - a. Favored the new _____ national government

- b. _____
wrote a series of essays called the _____
_____ that explained the Constitution.
 - i. They were published in newspapers.
- 2. Those who opposed the Constitution were called _____.
 - a. Antifederalists feared that the Constitution made the national government too _____ and it would abuse their rights
 - b. Many Antifederalists wanted a _____ to be added to protect their freedoms.
- 3. On December 7th, 1787, _____ became the first state to _____ the Constitution.
- 4. _____ became the second state to ratify the Constitution on December 12th.
- 5. The Constitution was officially adopted after _____ on June 21st, 1788.
- 6. The _____ would be added in January of 1789 to appease many Antifederalists.

Resources

The Articles of Confederation (1777-1789)

Background:

During the Revolutionary War, the American colonies needed to coordinate their efforts against Britain. They created an emergency government to raise money for the war effort called *The Continental Congress*. After the Revolution the colonies were officially independent from Great Britain. They needed to create a system of government to run this new nation. The first system created was known as *The Articles of Confederation* and was adopted on November 15, 1777. In its final form, the Articles of Confederation were comprised of a preamble and 13 articles.

Approved by the last of the 13 American states, Maryland, in 1781, the Articles became the ruling document in the new nation. The Articles created a nation that was "a league of friendship and perpetual union."

Directions: Review the chart and complete the questions.

The Articles of Confederation	
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One branch of government: Congress, responsible for making national laws Each state had one (1) vote in Congress No executive (President) No judicial branch (Court)
Decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>9 of 13 states</i> had to approve a proposal before it could become a law <i>All the states</i> had to agree to change an existing law
Money and Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Articles of Confederation could not collect taxes The A of C had to ask the individual states for money The A of C could print and borrow money Each state could regulate trade with other states Each state could tax its residents
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The A of C managed agreements with other countries and Native Americans The Articles of Confederation could appoint military officers Only the states could establish militias
Other	The A of C established <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a postal system weights and measures courts consequences for piracy

- Where did the Articles of Confederation place the most government power? (HINT look for repeated words). _____
- Give two examples from the chart.
- WHY do you think the first government of the United States was set this way?

NOTE: The following situations are NOT 100% accurate. However, they are similar to those that existed after the Revolution.

Directions:

- Review each case
- Use the chart of the Articles from today's class and your notes and explain whether the Articles of Confederation could solve this problem. Answer in full sentences.

1. Mrs. Frank, French ambassador, arrives from Paris to tell you France needs the money it lent the colonies during the Revolution immediately. Can the *Articles of Confederation* solve this problem? Why/Why not?
2. Valerie Shook is a Loyalist who fled the colonies during the Revolution and has returned to reclaim her property in Dover, MA. According to the Treaty of Paris, she is entitled to her land. However, Massachusetts has passed a law that ignores the claims of former Loyalists. Valerie appeals to the Articles for the return of his property. Can the *Articles of Confederation* solve this problem? Why/Why not?
3. A group of poor farmers in Massachusetts, led by Jon Eyerman and Sondra Lionetti is angered by war debts, bad harvests and high taxes. When their debt-ridden farms are repossessed by the bank, they march on the state capital in protest. Massachusetts sends their militia to try to stop them and appeals to Congress for assistance. Can the *Articles of Confederation* solve this problem? Why/Why not?
4. Mariah Tulaney and Taylor Rose are representatives from New Hampshire and New York. They believe that their states desire more territory for new settlers entering their states. New land would increase trade, profit and power for their individual states. They claim Vermont territory and appeal to the Articles to settle the dispute. Can the *Articles of Confederation* solve this problem? Why/Why not?
5. Foreign countries do not respect American independence. Although the Treaty of Paris granted the United States all the land east of the Mississippi, British General Cameron Cleary refuses to withdraw his troops from the Ohio Valley. In addition, King of Spain Parker Bennett closes New Orleans' port to American farmers. Can the *Articles of Confederation* solve this problem? Why/Why not?
6. Some individual states have abolished slavery in their constitutions. Confederation delegates Paige Harris and Adrianna Green and Taya Black-Kobrynich propose an amendment to abolish slavery in the entire country. Can the *Articles of Confederation* solve this problem? Why/Why not?

Reading the Articles of Confederation

Article I.

-The Stile of this Confederacy shall be "The United States of America".

Article II.

-Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

Article III.

-The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

Article V.

-No state shall be represented in Congress by less than two [members], nor by no more than seven members;...

-In determining questions in the United States, in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote....

Article VIII.

-All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense or general welfare and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states,...

-The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several states within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled....

Article IX.

-The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque and reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defense and welfare of the United States, or [of] any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States,...

-unless nine states assent to the same; nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day, be determined unless by the votes of a majority of the United States in Congress assembled....

Reading the Articles of Confederation Worksheet

The term "articles" means parts or provisions of a document. Answer the following questions using the attached excerpts of the Articles of Confederation. The answer can be found in the article listed for each question.

1. **Article I**

- a. Article officially names our country what?

2. **Article II**

- a. Does article II give more power to the national government or the state governments?
b. Restate article II in your own words:

3. **Article III**

- a. Article III declares that each of the 13 states enters into a league of _____ with each other.
b. Article III lists several reasons WHY the states entered into a league of friendship. What are some of those reasons?

4. **Article V**

- a. How many delegates to Congress could each state have?
b. How many votes did each state have?

5. **Article VIII**

- a. Where would Congress get money to run the country?
b. How would this be enforced?

6. **Article IX**

a. What were the powers of Congress that were limited in this excerpt of Article IX?

b. What was necessary for Congress to pass a law?

1. Draw a symbol or diagram to represent the Articles of Confederation.

1

A More Perfect Union: **The Constitutional Convention**

1. How many delegates were at the Convention? _____
2. Where was the Convention held (City and building)? _____
3. Who was elected President of the Convention? _____
4. Explain the role of George Washington at the Convention.



5. Explain the important role of James Madison at the election.



6. What was the rule on absolute secrecy and why was it important?
7. Explain the Virginia Plan (i.e. what kind of government would be set up, how would power be divided and checked?).

8. Who wrote the Virginia Plan? _____
9. Who presented the Virginia Plan to the Convention? _____

10. Explain the New Jersey plan.

11. Who wrote the New Jersey Plan?

12. What happened to the New Jersey Plan?

13. Explain the Great Compromise.

14. What was the disagreement between the large states and the small states?

15. What was one of the disagreements between the northern states and the southern states?

16. Explain the Three-Fifths Compromise.

17. Explain the compromise the Convention came up with about the "importation of slaves".

18. What date did the Convention begin?

19. What date was the Constitution signed by the members of the Convention?

20. Who decided not to sign the Constitution?

21. What needed to happen in order for the Constitution to be ratified (approved)?
